

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13728 251612Z

70

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13728

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, BU, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET POSITION ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 12294 (NOTAL) (B) MOSCOW 11845 (C) MOSCOW 11152

MLADENOV'S STATEMENT THAT ALL CSCE AREAS ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS IN CONFORMITY WITH FORMAL SOVIET LINE, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT AND HAVE WATCHED IT DEVELOP HERE (REFTELS). SOVIETS HAVE RANK-ORDERED PRINCIPLES WITHIN BASKET I AND BASKETS GENERALLY TO EMPHASIZE FRONTLINERS AND OTHER POLITICAL-SECURITY ASPECTS OF CSCE, BUT THEY HAVE DONE SO INFORMALLY, THROUGH DRAFTING EMPHASIS IN PRESS PLAY, AND IN WATCHING SOVIET MEDIA WE HAVE NOT YET CAUGHT THEM OUT ACTUALLY SAYING THAT SOME CSCE COMMITMENTS WERE MORE EQUAL OR MORE WORTHY OF FULFILLMENT THAN OTHERS. BEGINNING WITH PONOMAREV'S STATEMENTS TO CODEL ALBERT AND CONSISTENTLY SINCE THEN, THEY HAVE CAREFULLY MAINTAINED THE FORMAL POSITION THAT ALL CSCE COMMITMENTS ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT, AND THAT ALL WILL BE FULFILLED BY THE USSR. WE DO NOT SEE A MILLIMETER OF LIGHT BETWEEN SOVIET AND BULGARIAN POSITIONS ON THIS QUESTION, AND, OF COURSE, WE DID NOT EXPECT TO.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 13728 251612Z

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